ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides a method of quantifying the sharpness of a digital image. The method comprises the steps of identifying a plurality of edges in a digital image; and, calculating an image sharpness metric value representative of the sharpness of the digital image based on the identified edges. Using this method it is possible to control the sharpness of an image. This is achieved by quantifying the sharpness of the image in accordance with the method of the present invention, to provide an image sharpness metric value representative of the image sharpness. The gain of an unsharp-mask filter (or other suitable sharpening algorithm) is then adjusted in dependence on a calibrated relationship between gain of the unsharp mask filter (or more generally aggressiveness of digital sharpening algorithm) and the image sharpness metric value.